

1/11/10 (6)

Maryjane Kenney

From: Kate Chung [katewchung@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 6:56 PM
To: Manager Department
Cc: Bettina Abe
Subject: Documents for Monday's Selectmen Meeting
Attachments: Sidewalk Annual Report 2009.doc; Sidewalk Report Addendum.doc

Hello -

I represent the sidewalk and I am going to be presenting at this Monday's Selectmen Meeting. Please include the two attached documents in the Selectmen's package.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Kate Chung

1/7/2010

Sidewalk Committee – Annual Report, 2009

In July 2007, the Board of Selectmen responded to the growing desire for more sidewalks in Acton by creating a Sidewalk Committee. This committee serves as an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen. The committee is currently comprised of the following people: Bettina Abe (co-chair), Kate Chung (co-chair), Sytske Campbell (secretary), Leslie Hogan, Dick Calandrella, Celia Kent, Pam Cochrane, Steve Evans and Dana Snyder-Grant.

Over the course of our first year we came up with a list of 6 streets that we felt were in most need of a sidewalk. The streets were presented to and approved by the Board of Selectmen in June 2008.

This year, we saw great progress in the construction of these 6 streets. This includes:

1. Central Street (near Mt Hope Cemetery): Completed in Spring 2009
2. Lower Prospect: Near completion
3. Route 2A (Davis Road to Main Street): Next on list to be surveyed/designed
4. High Street (#30 - #46): Retaining wall to be built this winter 2009/2010. Sidewalk should be completed in 2010.
5. Main Street (Post Office Square to 2A): Trees removed in fall 2009. Sidewalk should be completed in 2010.
6. High Street (#77 to Parker): Successfully gathered temporary easements from every homeowner between 77 High Street and Parker Street for the purposes of surveying their property. The survey should be completed in spring 2010.

In fall 2009, we selected our next set of 4 streets that would follow the initial 6. This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in January as an addendum to our June 2008 report. These streets include:

1. Great Road (Main Street to Woodvale Condominiums)
2. Summer Street (between Central and Willow, plus a gap near Ethan Allen)
3. Taylor Road and Minot, and possibly Coughlin
4. Martin Street

Finally, we have created a first draft of Sidewalk Design Guidelines. These guidelines will be distributed in January 2010 to a number of other town boards for comments/suggestions.

Goals for 2010:

- Present second set of selected sidewalks to Board of Selectmen for approval.
- Finalize our design guidelines and present to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Once approved, we will post to our Web page and request that other relevant departments (planning, zoning) post to theirs.
- Support the Engineering department with any assistance they require (eg: gathering temporary easement signatures, talking with homeowners) to facilitate the building of the above sidewalks.
- Continue to review new development plans and respond to concerns from citizens.

Acton Sidewalk Committee - Addendum 11/09

Secondary Pool – Top 4 Streets – list and rationales for selections

- 1) Great Road/Rt.2A – section from Main Street/Rt.27 to Woodvale condominiums.
 - major artery in town
 - many pedestrians due to stores and residences, many points of interest
 - heavy traffic that travels at high speed
 - busy intersection
 - guard rail and narrow walking room
 - significant gap between sidewalk sections
- 2) Summer Street – 2 gap sections of Central to Willow and small bit by Ethan Allen
 - to complete the Summer Street sidewalk
 - many points of interest including train station
 - Central to Willow section connects to recently completed Central St. sidewalk
- 3) Taylor Road and Minot, and possibly Coughlin
 - Conant Elementary is only school in town without sidewalk to main entrance
 - several dangerous curves with zero visibility and/or walking room
 - cut-through from Route 2 to Route 27
 - significant truck traffic and traffic volume during dismissals and rush hours
 - many links to points of interest
 - 1987 Town Master Plan stipulates sidewalks to schools as #1 priority
- 4) Martin Street – Railroad tracks to Central Street
 - small unfinished gap near train tracks leaves pedestrians stranded
 - many points of interest including train station and Jones Field
 - land clearing for sidewalk started but sidewalk work not completed
 - significant traffic and trucks